(ग) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार अब अमरीका से गेहूं आयात करने के बारे में विचार कर रही है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो यह गेहूं किस दर पर और कितनी मात्रा में आयात किया जाएगा ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री सलमान खुर्शीद) : (क) और (ख) भारत से 1 जनवरी, 1992 के बाद गेहूं की कुछ मात्रा निर्यात की गई है । ब्यौरा एकत्र किया जा रहा है और सभा पटल पर रख दिया जाएगा ।

(ग) और (घ) खाद्य मंत्रालय का एक शिष्टमंडल सितम्बर/अक्तूबर 1992 में संयुक्त राज्य अमरीका गया था और उसने अक्तूबर–दिसम्बर, 1992 में पोत लदान के लिए 110.5 अमरीकी डालर प्रति एम टन (पोत पर्यन्त नि:शुल्क खाड़ी) की दर पर तथा जनवरी–मार्च 1993 में पोत लदान के लिए 112.5 अमरीकी डालर प्रति एम.टन (पोत पर्यन्त नि:शुल्क-खाड़ी) की दर पर 9.85 लाख मीट्रिक टन गेहूं की खरीद को अन्तिम रूप दिया है । अमरीकी कृषि विभाग ने अमरीकी निर्यात वृद्धि कार्यक्रम के तहत 33.45 डालर प्रति एम. टो. औसत बोनस (इमदाद) दी है ।

Export of granite blocks

555. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the value of raw blocks of granite exported to various countries during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of granite processing units working in the country, their capacity and employment generated in these units, during the last three years; and

(c) the steps Government proposed to take to remove the constraints faced by the granite processing units in availability of raw materials ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) Value of cut granite blocks exported to various countries during the last three years, year-wise, has been Rs. 106 crores, 172 crores and 250.8 crores during 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 respectively.

(b) While some granite processing units working in the country are approved under the 100% BOU Scheme, others stand registered with DGTD and respective State Directorates of Industries. The precise number of granite processing units, their capacity and employment generation are, therefore, not available.

(c) The problems faced by the granite industry in regard to availablity of raw material (rough granite blocks) including the leasing policies followed by the State Governments have been taken up with the respective State Governments from time to time.

Decline in exports to rupee payment area

556. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the exports to rupee payment area have declined by 42.5 per cent; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to boost such exports ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that there has been a substantial decline in the exports to the RPA countries. Some of the important reasons for the decline are as follows :

(i) The disintegration of the major trading partner, the Soviet Union.

(ii) The economic restructuring and decline in industrial production in that country led to lower supplies of Trade Protocol items to India resulting in lower rupee generation for exports.

(iii) Placing an upper limit to the technical credit in place of earlier unlimited technical credit led to reduce exports.

(b) Government have taken several steps to boost exports to these countries. They are :

(i) Separate trade agreements and protocols have been signed with the majority of the republics of the erstwhile Soviet Union.

(ii) Greater marketing thrust in the changed economic environment including more effective participation in Trade Fairs, Exhibitions, Buyer-Seller Meets, etc.

(iii) Promotion of direct contracts at the commercial enterprises level.

(iv) Greater emphasis on new forms of cooperation, such as joint ventures.

A liberal counter-trade mechanism has been put into place by the Ministry of Commerce enabling importers/exporters to buy commodities like certain types of fertilizers, non-ferrous metals, steel items, metal scrap and newsprint through the counter trade regime.

Crisis in tea industry

557. SHRI G. G. SWELL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the tea industry is facing a crisis;

(b) whether the cost of production of one kg. of tea is more than its sale price;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(d) whether Government are taking any remedial measures in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) The tea industry is facing difficulties on account of reduced purchases by the CIS countries, which were a major buyer of Indian tea during the previous years. There has also been a loss of production to the extent of 28.60 Million Kgs. during the period January to September, 1992 as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year.

(b) Estimated cost of production of tea during 1992-93 on all India basis at Rs. 38.93 per kg. is lower than the all India average auction price during April to October, 1992 at Rs. 39.90 per kg.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Export of rice to Cuba

558. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have since decided to export rice to Cuba;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if the answer to Part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. An agreement between Food Corporation of India and Empresa Cubana Importadora De Alimentos Alimport Hawana, Cuba was signed on 30-9-92 for export of 10,000 MT of rice to Cuba. 10,177.18 MT of rice have since been exported.

Dunkel proposals

559. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to agreee to the Dunkel proposals; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) and (b) Government have not yet taken a final view on the proposals of Director General, GATT, with regard to the Uruguay Round of Negotiations. Government propose to initiate a full debate in Parliament on this subject, and a final view would only be taken thereafter.

Increase in export earnings

560. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been substantial increase in the export